implementation by universities from the academic year 1990-91. The model academic calendar, inter-alia, provides for a minimum of 180 teaching days every year, last date of admission, last date of completion of examination and declaration of results. However, examination schedules are sometimes dislocated due to certain factors beyond the control of the universities, such as natural calamities, law & order situation, agitations, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) UGC has been requesting all universities to adopt the Model Academic Calendar.

[English]

Explosive Population Situation

4753. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the explosive situation on the population front as a result of 2% annual growth rate;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to bring down the growth rate to 'Zero', at least in the next 25 years;

(c) whether a package of incentives and disincentives to adopt 'one child norm' is in the offing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There has been a marginal decline in the growth rate of Population.

(b) Reduction of the rate of growth of population in India is a Priority area in the VIII Five Year Plan. The National Family Welfare Programme has been able to bring about significant reduction in the birth rate from 41.7 per thousand population over the decade 1951-61 to 28.7 in 1994. It is estimated that the Net Reproduction Rate of unity would be achievable in the period 2011-2016 AD.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Measles

4754. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 150 children have died of measles in Uttar Pradesh in the past two months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation; and

(c) the allocation made to U.P. during the last three years for measles and polio control and number of children inoculated last year under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) 160 deaths due to measles have been reported from Uttar Pradesh during the period of January to June 1996.

(b) The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme launched in 1992 incorporates the Universal Immunization Programme for increasing the immunization coverage levels including measles immunization.

(c) The total allocations (cash and kind) made under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme which includes measles and Polio control to Uttar Pradesh are Rupees 23.57 crores, 45.58 crores and 47.23 crores during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. 45.22 lakh children were immunized in Uttar Pradesh against measles during 1995-96.

New Passport Offices

4755. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places selected in different States for opening of New Passport Offices; and

(b) the places in West Bengal and other North Eastern States, where such offices are likely to be opened till March 31, 1997 and during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to open new Passport Offices at Ghaziabad in U.P., Pune and Thane in Maharashtra, and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. This follows a comprehensive review to assess the need for new Passport Offices. Proposals to open new offices and collection centres where there is requirement in the State of West Bengal and in the North Eastern states are under active consideration.

National Cultural Policy Paper

4756. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated new National Cultural Policy Paper; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?